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PCT/IT 99/00051 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 6 B31F1/07 IPC 6 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 B31F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. EP 0 408 248 A (JAMES RIVER CORP) χ 1-20,22, 16 January 1991 23,25-53 see page 2, column 2, line 11 - page 3, column 3, line 44; claims; figure 1 US 5 686 168 A (LAURENT PIERRE ET AL) Α 11 November 1997 FR 2 684 598 A (KAYSERSBERG SA) 11 June 1993 US 4 320 162 A (SCHULZ GALYN A) Α 16 March 1982 cited in the application US 3 694 300 A (SMALL RUDOLPH ERNST) 26 Se: ∋mber 1972 cited in the application Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. " Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the lan which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other, such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 23 June 1999 01/07/1999 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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